

# USING THE CITY RIGHT OF WAY



## Using the City Right of Way

The Streets Division of the Public Works Department helps protect the public right of way and the assets within the right of way.

## What is the Right of Way?

The Right of Way is the property under, on the surface, and above the roadways and sidewalks usually extending 10 to 20 feet beyond the roadway pavement. A right of way often extends well into what you may consider your yard. Assets within the right of way may include the roadway, curb, gutter, sidewalks, vegetation, drainage culverts and ditches, sewer and water lines, telephone, power, gas and cable TV. The right of way may also

include areas that do not coincide with a roadway area, such as, easements associated with water ways and drainage ways, City sewer easements, and public utility easements.

## When do I need a Right of Way Use Permit?

You will need a permit for any activity that disrupts traffic, restricts access, or modifies any infrastructure within the right of way. This includes replacement or modifications to driveways, placement of fences/walls, or rocks in the right of way, placement of dumpsters, “Porta-Johns” and construction materials in the right of way, parking moving vans or other vehicles in restricted parking areas, block parties, and other uses. Utility and construction companies are required to obtain permits for all work within the right of way.

The Streets Division of the Public Works Department is happy to assist you in the early stages of your planning to help determine if a right of way use permit is necessary for your work. Staff can also advise you as to problems that may be encountered or revisions that may be needed to meet city codes or other regulations. **If a permit is required, please plan on submitting your application at least two weeks prior to your desired project / event start date.** Please call 204-7800 with any questions regarding Right of Way Use Permits.

## IMPORTANT!

If you dig in the public right of way, even to plant a shrub, you may encounter power lines or other utilities. In addition to the obvious life-safety concerns, you may also be held liable for damage to any utility encountered. **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG - 1-800-782-5348** to locate utilities in the area of your work.

**IT IS THE LAW!**